

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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FOR SIMONS FROM SCHMIDT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, RO

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL/INFORMAL

1. AMBASSADOR'S CAR WAS SHIPPED FEBRUARY 6 ON SEA-LAND
GALLOWAY, SCHEDULED ARRIVE ANTWERP FEBRUARY 16, BILL OF
LADING NO. 724939.

2. PUNGAN VISIT. PLEADING THE NEED FOR MORE TIME IN NEW
YORK, PUNGAN SKIPPED THE SCHEDULED VISIT TO LITTLE ROCK
FOR A MEETING WITH THE OZARKS REGIONAL COMMISSION AND WENT
STRAIGHT TO NEW YORK FROM DALLAS. PERHAPS ONE FACTOR WAS
PUNGAN'S DESIRE TO BE CLOSE TO WASHINGTON FOR A LONGER
PERIOD SHOULD PRESIDENT CARTER AGREE TO MEET WITH HIM. THE
ROMANIAN EMBASSY IS STILL PUSHING FOR THE MEETING BUT
UNFORTUNATELY OTHER PRESSURES ON THE PRESIDENT'S TIME, PAR-
TICULARLY THE COAL STRIKE DEADLOCK, APPEARS TO HAVE RULED IT
OUT. (BRZEZINSKI ASSURED PUNGAN DURING THEIR MEETING THAT
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IF A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WERE POSSIBLE HE WOULD
CONTACT PUNGAN.) SO FAR AS WE KNOW NOW, PUNGAN STILL PLANS
TO ARRIVE IN BUCHAREST AT 3:35 P.M. SATURDAY ON TAROM 216
FROM FRANKFURT. IF WE LEARN IN TIME OF A CHANGE IN PLANS,
WE WILL ADVISE.

3. VLAD GEORGESCU. WOODROW WILSON CENTER HAS AGREED TO

TELEGRAM INVITATION TO INSTITUTE FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN
STUDIES.

4. CCC CREDITS. THE NAC APPROVED THE ROMANIAN REQUEST FOR 100,000 METRIC TONS OF SOYBEANS AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING. I REGRET THAT THERE WAS A COMMUNICATION PROBLEM WITH THE POST ON THIS ISSUE. OUR STATE 23551 OF JANUARY 28 (OFFICIAL/INFORMAL) HAD FIRST ALERTED YOU TO OUR THINKING ABOUT LINKING OUR RESPONSIVENESS TO GOR FINANCIAL INTERESTS TO ROMANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE AND REQUESTED THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY REBUTTAL FROM THE POST, AND WITH LUERS' CONCURRENCE. WE HELD UP THE NAC APPROVAL DURING PUNGAN'S WASHINGTON MEETINGS TO INDICATE THAT SUCH U.S.G. FINANCING WAS NOT AUTOMATIC. THE LATE NOTICE REGARDING TRANSSHIPMENT RUMORS AND OTHER USDA CONCERNS STEMS FROM AGRICULTURE'S CONSISTENT FAILURE TO KEEP EVEN STATE INFORMED. YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE NICOLAE-HATHAWAY LETTER OF JANUARY 5 WAS NOT BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION UNTIL ALMOST TWO WEEKS LATER, AT WHICH TIME WE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED THE EMBASSY (STATE 19316). NICK AND I WILL TRY TO SHAPE AGRICULTURE UP SO THAT WE CAN KEEP YOU BETTER INFORMED.

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5. AGATT FOR BUCHAREST. ON A RELATED MATTER, ROGER EULER, STAN BROWN'S REPLACEMENT AS FAS AREA COORDINATOR FOR EASTERN EUROPE, WILL BE OVER TO SEE US ON MONDAY TO DISCUSS TIMING FOR FILLING THE AGATT SLOT IN BUCHAREST. I UNDERSTAND HE IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE A MAN THERE THIS SUMMER. PLEASE LET US KNOW A.S.A.P. IF THIS IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE EMBASSY AND, IF NOT, WHAT YOUR PREFERENCES ARE.

6. CASTRO ASSIGNMENT. HIGGINS REPORTS THAT BILBAO IS STILL A POSSIBILITY BUT THAT THIS SLOT IS ALSO CONSULAR-DESIGNATED AND THUS THERE IS A SIMILAR PROBLEM TO OPORTO. HIGGINS SAYS OPORTO IS JUST ABOUT ASSIGNED, BUT WE URGED THAT HE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD'S PROBABLE PREFERENCE FOR CASTRO. RECIFE APPEARS TO BE THE MOST LIKELY OPENING, BUT HIGGINS HAS PROMISED TO BEAR IN MIND EMIL'S OWN ORDER OF PREFERENCE.

7. BACKGROUND NOTES. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN WE CAN EXPECT YOUR REVISED DRAFT OF THE BACKGROUND NOTES. WE ARE BEING TOLD IT IS ALREADY HARD TO SAY IF A NEW VERSION CAN BE ISSUED IN TIME FOR THE CEAUSESCU VISIT. VANCE

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